

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Action and Linking Verbs

A complete sentence has a subject and a predicate. The main word in the predicate is a **verb**. An **action verb** tells what the subject does.

The little boy *cried* often.

A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject to a word or words in the predicate. It tells what the subject is or is like.

He *seemed* very quiet. He *was* a good sport.

- Action verbs show actions that are physical (*hike, build*) or mental (*remember, approve*).
- Common linking verbs are forms of the verb *be* (*am, is, are, was, were*).
- These verbs can be linking verbs: *become, seem, appear, feel, taste, smell, and look*. (*The cake appears fresh. It looks tasty.*) However, some of them can also be used as action verbs. (*A boy appeared suddenly. He looked at the food.*)

**Directions** Write the verb in each sentence of the paragraph. Then write *A* if the verb is an action verb. Write *L* if it is a linking verb.

1. Are you a spoiled child? 2. A spoiled child always gets his or her way. 3. He or she seems selfish. 4. Parents pamper the child too much. 5. This treatment often leads to misery. 6. The world responds better to a kind, unselfish person. 7. Compassion is good for the giver and the receiver. 8. The most unselfish people appear happiest.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

**Directions** Write a verb from the box to complete each sentence. On the line after the sentence, write *A* if the verb is an action verb. Write *L* if it is a linking verb.

combine    is    showed    are

9. The dragon \_\_\_\_\_ popular in Chinese culture. \_\_\_\_\_
10. In ancient China, people \_\_\_\_\_ great respect for dragons. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Dragons \_\_\_\_\_ not real animals. \_\_\_\_\_
12. They \_\_\_\_\_ traits of many animals. \_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child learned about action and linking verbs. Read a story together. Have your child point out several action verbs and linking verbs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Action and Linking Verbs

|           |       |       |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| celebrate | drink | ring  |
| write     | sways | dress |

**Directions** Use an action verb from the box to complete each sentence. Write the sentence.

1. People from around the world \_\_\_\_\_ the new year.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In China, some people \_\_\_\_\_ as dragons.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The dragon's tail \_\_\_\_\_ as it parades down the street.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Children in Belgium \_\_\_\_\_ letters to parents on decorated paper.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. In the United States, people \_\_\_\_\_ a toast to the new year.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Bells \_\_\_\_\_ out at midnight.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Write a paragraph describing a celebration. Use vivid action verbs and appropriate linking verbs. Underline the verbs you use.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child learned how to use action and linking verbs in writing. Ask your child to write a description of dinnertime at your home using action verbs and linking verbs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Action and Linking Verbs

**Directions** Mark the letter of the phrase that correctly identifies the underlined word in the sentence.

1. In ancient China, the Three Letters custom was important to a marriage.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
2. The Betrothal Letter formally announced the engagement.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
3. After that, a Gift Letter was necessary.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
4. The letter listed gifts for the wedding.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
5. She approved the proposed marriage.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
6. The Wedding Letter was the third formal document.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
7. The groom's family presented this letter to the bride's family.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
8. It formally accepted the bride into the groom's family.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
9. The bride usually brought a dowry of jewels and furniture.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb
10. Today, these wedding customs seem unusual.  
 A action verb (physical)  
 B action verb (mental)  
 C linking verb  
 D not a verb



**Home Activity** Your child prepared for taking tests on action and linking verbs. With your child, read a newspaper article. Have your child circle action verbs and underline linking verbs in the article.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Action and Linking Verbs

**Directions** Underline the verb in each sentence. Write *A* on the line if the verb is an action verb. Write *L* if it is a linking verb.

1. A governess raises a child in a private home. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She is important to the family. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She teaches the child his or her lessons. \_\_\_\_\_
4. However, a governess is much more than a teacher. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She shares playtime and mealtime with children. \_\_\_\_\_
6. She soon seems like one of the family. \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Match the verb with the phrase that correctly identifies the verb. Write the letter of the phrase on the line.

- |                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ 7. marries | A. linking verb           |
| _____ 8. becomes | B. action verb (physical) |
| _____ 9. wonders | C. not a verb             |
| _____ 10. happy  | D. action verb (mental)   |

**Directions** Rewrite each sentence. Add your own verb to make the sentence clear and interesting.

11. People \_\_\_\_\_ candles and incense for different reasons.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Candlelight \_\_\_\_\_ a soft, mysterious mood.

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Fragrant incense \_\_\_\_\_ pleasant.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. The pleasing light and scent \_\_\_\_\_ into the air.

\_\_\_\_\_

15. In this way, people \_\_\_\_\_ holy beings.

\_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child reviewed action and linking verbs. Ask your child to write a letter to a friend or family member using some vivid action verbs and some linking verbs.